



Who's Who of Ballooning

By Ecbert Eecks

PRATHER, Victor A. USA (1930?1961) K (GB/SB)
See APPENDIX-B/AA/AP/BS. Strato-Balloonist. (bio-data unknown)
d: 4 May 1961 Gulf of Mexico.
e: Tufts College Medical School, MD-1952.
s: Medical officer (flight surgeon) in the U.S.Navy, Lt.Cmdr.in 1961. f: Apt
student of Ben LEVITT; extent of ballooning unknown. ***Epic flight 4 May
1961 (w/M.ROSS) from the aircraft carrier Enterprise in "Strato-Lab." Flight
established a FAI-Altitude record of 113,733' but was marred when it landed in
the water. Prather removed his helmet and his pressure suit swamped with
water. Even though he had practiced this possibility, he drowned before
reaching a flotation ring provided from a helicopter.
r: NT-5 May 1961p1:2; E.Yost, B. Levitt archives.
a: Family and address unknown; widow lived in Detroit, MI.